

February 11, 2010

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Keeping Medicare Affordable

Congressman Melancon supports keeping Medicare affordable for seniors and voted last September for the *Medicare Premium Fairness Act* (H.R. 3631). This important bill prevented a projected 2010 increase in Medicare Part B premiums for seniors and the disabled, helping seniors living on fixed incomes through tough economic times.

Working for Fairer Social Security Cost-of-Living Adjustments

Congressman Melancon is a co-sponsor of legislation to establish a fairer and more equitable formula for Social Security cost-of-living adjustments. The *Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers Act* (H.R. 2429) would reform the way Social Security COLAs are calculated, so that the formula takes into consideration the rising cost of health care that hits seniors the hardest.

Lowering the Cost of Prescription Drugs

Congressman Melancon has co-sponsored legislation to help lower the cost of prescription drugs for everyone, including senior citizens. The *Pathway for Biosimilars Act* (H.R. 1548) would make lower-cost generic alternatives available to consumers faster, so seniors pay less for the prescription drugs they need.

Protecting Social Security Benefits for Retirees

Congressman Melancon is also a co-sponsor of the *Social Security Fairness Act* (H.R. 235), a bill that would make sure Louisiana's retirees get the full Social Security benefits they have earned by repealing the government pension offset (GPO) and windfall elimination provisions (WEP). Currently, the WEP and GPO reduce Social Security benefits for hundreds of thousands of retired public employees, like former school teachers, firefighters and public safety officers. Congressman Melancon is fighting to repeal the WEP and GPO because all Louisianians deserve the Social Security benefits they have worked hard for.

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